

*their licenses to practice medicine taken away from them and be discredited in their own organizations."*

There is, of course, no answer to criticism of this kind. It is true—at least too much of it is true. It is becoming common for criminals to engage a doctor to assist their attorneys in twisting evidence in their favor. Plaintiffs and the state are being required more and more to apply similar methods. It is said that it is as easy to find these medical advocates as it is to find a lawyer whose business it is to use every quirk consistent with legal ethics to either clear his client or find him guilty, as the case may be. It is a common thing to have in our own courts from one to three or four supposedly honest ethical physicians paid by one interest, and another group paid by an opposing interest, fighting as bitterly to confuse the truth as some of the lawyers who are on the two sides of the question.

Look, for example, at the disgraceful spectacle which recently went on in the courts of Chicago. On account of the prominence of the young murderers and the particular heinousness of their crime, all people everywhere followed the course of the evidence fully.

Again, we found many of our widely known specialists psychoanalyzing, twisting, turning, and doing everything they could to defeat the cause of justice, and their evidence having to be rebutted by other groups who were, at least in this instance, fighting for the truth.

Of course, as physicians we know that the picture is not so dark as it appears to be on the surface. Nevertheless, it is dark enough in all conscience. We know that many of these alleged expert "doctors" are "criminologists," "psychologists," "psycho-pathologists," "professors of bean growing," or something else, who are being quoted as legitimate educated physicians. They are not.

Similar situations are frequent in courts elsewhere. Attempts have been made from time to time, including the last annual meeting, to get a rule of ethics covering the point by the house of delegates of the A. M. A. One prominent attorney has been quoted as saying that much of his success in getting criminals acquitted was due to his wisdom in picking the right sort of doctors to testify for him, and that they were the cheapest people in the market to buy.

Doctors often are useful in court procedures. Their expert knowledge should be utilized perhaps more often than it is. It is a fact also that conditions often arise where there may be honest differences of opinion among physicians as to pertinent facts. These things are expected and provided for, but many of their disagreements when assisting attorneys on two sides of a trial cannot be explained along these lines.

#### DIRECTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The directory of the members of the California Medical Association, as authorized by the House of Delegates of the C. M. A. at its last annual meeting, is now being published. The executive committee have authorized the free distribution of one copy of this directory to each member of the association. Additional copies may be had by payment of a fee to be decided upon, from Doctor Emma W. Pope, secretary of the California Medical Association, 1016

Balboa Building, San Francisco. The executive committee in authorizing this publication included in their resolution a statement that "*unofficial medical directories are not sanctioned by the California Medical Association.*"

This official directory will have considerable value if distributed *only* to members of the organization. It would be unfortunate, however, if advantage is not taken of distributing this directory in various public places throughout the state, so that it may be available to all people who are looking for a list of reputable ethical physicians of the state. It would also be a splendid thing if each county medical association, particularly those containing twenty or more members, would have at least that part of the directory referring to their county reprinted and see that these reprints are given public distribution through local news distributing agencies, as well as leaving copies of the reprint on tables in their waiting rooms. One of the chief reasons why more of the practice of medicine—particularly for the transient population in a great health center like California—is not in the hands of educated ethical physicians is, chiefly, because lists giving the names and addresses of these physicians are not available. The C. M. A. has taken a fine stand in authorizing the publication of this directory. Its officers and members ought to increase the value of the directory by making it as nearly universally available as is possible.

It is hoped in subsequent annual editions that this directory may be expanded to include mention of the specialty, if any, that each physician is engaged in; also that it may include all accredited hospitals of the state, as well as all other scientific agencies of medicine, wherever they may be located. What a fine thing it would be if any person—stranger or otherwise—in this state could pick up an authoritative directory and find a list of the physicians, hospitals, laboratories, x-ray plants, and other information that the public is interested in!

#### HOSPITAL CONFERENCE AT LONG BEACH

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Hospitals of California will be held at the Virginia Hotel, Long Beach, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 6, 7, 8, 1924. The Council of the California Medical Association will meet at the same place on Saturday, November 8. There are also Southern California medical associations meetings close enough to the same dates to make a continuous visit of a week or more to the southern part of the state profitable and enjoyable.

The Hospital Conference will have before it a number of questions of the most vital concern to every hospital, clinic, laboratory, physician, nurse and other person concerned with the cause of better medicine. Some of the most important of these questions will not be published in the program. Every hospital, clinic, group, x-ray or other laboratory, and other accredited medical organization is invited to send representatives. As large an attendance of representative people as possible should compose this conference, and it may be confidently predicted that all who go will find benefits that will compensate them many times over for the expense incident to the trip.

The program promises to be unusual in several important particulars. One of the outstanding fea-

tures that will be discussed is the alleged excessive cost of hospital service as compared with other humanitarian services. The committee appointed to investigate this problem at the last conference will make its report. Distinguished hospital and medical economics students from other points will be present to take part in the discussions.

Doctor F. L. Rogers of Long Beach, chairman of the local committee of arrangements, reports enthusiastic co-operation of all business, social and medical organizations of the city in an effort to make this the most valuable of all the conferences thus far held. Long Beach at this time of year is a delightful place and the Hotel Virginia as headquarters, as well as other hotels of the city, are prepared to supply accommodations at reasonable rates. Why not write direct to the hotel or to Doctor Rogers, as chairman of the local committee of arrangements, and make your plans to attend this conference?

### MEDICAL CARE FOR INDIGENTS

In an editorial note the Ohio State Medical Journal says:

"The 'district physician plan' for caring for the indigent sick in Columbus has been changed by the Board of Health, upon the recommendation of Dr. James A. Berr, city health officer.

"Under the old plan, district physicians were appointed at a stipulated monthly wage to care for the indigent sick within the prescribed areas. Under the new plan, all indigent patients able to visit a physician's office will be required to go to one of the Ohio State University dispensaries. Those confined at home with sickness will be investigated by a representative of the department. If the services of a physician are needed, the family physician will be summoned and paid by the board of health at the rate of \$3 per visit by the city."

The obsolete "district physician plan" of board of health or the "neighborhood physician plan" of education boards—the chief difference being in different control—has long since been given up in progressive communities. It is only now being promoted in certain centers in California.

It is interesting to see Columbus, Ohio, abandon it because of the underlying principle that always made it unpopular. This being that people, including poor people, resent, as they should, being dictated to as to whom they will have to care for them when they are sick.

Of course, Columbus jumped from the frying pan into the fire when they limited allowable service for the ambulatory sick poor to one clinic. Another shift will be in order in due time, basing this prediction upon the adage that nothing is settled until it is settled right. Right means the right of choice by the patient, rich or poor, within reasonable limits, of who shall care for him when he is ill or thinks he is.

The Columbus health officer recognizes this principle in establishing the highly commendable plan of allowing those confined at home with sickness and who need a physician's services, to summon their family doctor, whose fee is paid by the health board.

This most effective, least objectionable and least criticized method of furnishing medical care to the indigent is the custom in several California communities.

## Medicine in the Public Press

### Ten Thousand Healers Boasted by California!—

The press of the West Coast recently emphasized, as well they might, a statement to the effect that California had 10,000 licensed healers of one sort or another. These figures do not include faith healers, many of the specialists on the care of various organs and appendages of the body, and the many wholly ignorant or only technically trained people who are practicing the healing art.

**New York's Unhygienic Bakeries**—According to extensive newspaper publicity, New York City still has 3077 bakeries located in cellars and, therefore, unhygienic. This in violation of the law passed in 1913. Many of these bakeries are habitations for insects and rodents, say the headlines.

The interesting point to Western health officers and other physicians is, that nearly all the "surveyors" who come out to tell us how to conduct our health affairs live within a few blocks of where this sort of situation exists.

**Sixteen Rules of Health**—Page advertisements of the New York Life Extension Institute in metropolitan newspapers recently gave what they consider the sixteen most important rules of health. These are:

1. Ventilate every room you occupy.
2. Wear light, loose, and porous clothes.
3. Seek out-of-door occupations and recreations.
4. Sleep out, if you can.
5. Breathe deeply.
6. Avoid overeating and overweight.
7. Avoid excess of eggs, meat, flesh food, salt, and highly seasoned food.
8. Eat some hard, some bulky, some raw foods.
9. Eat slowly.
10. Use sufficient water internally and externally.
11. Evacuate thoroughly, regularly, and frequently.
12. Stand, sit, and walk erect.
13. Do not allow poisons and infections to enter the body.
14. Keep the teeth, gums, and tongue clean.
15. Work, play, rest, and sleep in moderation.
16. Keep serene.

We believe that many of the most important rules of health are not touched in this group, and we believe this list can be improved upon. We, therefore, invite similar lists of anywhere from five to twenty rules of health, which we will publish over the signatures of members or organizations who may care to take the trouble to send them in.

**What Kind of Milk Are You Drinking?**—The press of Santa Cruz County has recently given considerable space to a discussion of whether or not milk cows should be inspected and the quality of the milk regulated by well-enforced county ordinances. One of the discussants said it was an impracticable procedure under state, county, and municipal laws and regulations. The state inspectors do periodically examine the milk cattle of, at least, the larger dairies. If they order a tubercular cow killed or disposed of, it is entirely possible for the owner to sell this cow to some private family who may keep on using the milk.

Many interesting features were brought out that are rather staggering to people who believe that all California milk is safe to drink.

**Fat So Thoroughly Removed That It Can Never Get Back**—Several members have forwarded us copies of an advertisement in the public press where a licensed doctor in this state claims that under Doctor Blank's method of treatment not only is excess fat removed, but under her system "such condition of